The King Edward Ragged School Flower Service (see page 150).

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

OCTOBER, 1882.

LORD SHAFTESBURY'S APPEAL.

THE finances of the Ragged School Union have, for some time past, occasioned its Committee no little anxiety. Many of the Society's earlier friends have been removed, and the contributions which ceased with their death have not been replaced by the generation following. Since the passing of the Elementary Education Act in 1870 there has been a gradual decline in the regular income of the Union. Many who, previous to that, had evinced a kindly interest in the welfare of poor and neglected children, seemed to have taken it for granted that the passing of that great and necessary measure would supersede the voluntary efforts so long and successfully made for the benefit of the lowest and most degraded of the juvenile population of the metropolis, and for whom Ragged Schools had been established. It should be known, however, that the evils fostered by the neglect of ages —the vice and irreligion among the masses, against which the Committee have striven—are not so easily eradicated, and that the Christian energy and perseverance of the large and earnest body of voluntary teachers so long identified with the amelioration of the condition of the neglected poor, are as necessary as ever. We are often asked to point to the good achieved by Ragged Schools. About this, however, there is no difficulty. What London would have been without the salutary and reforming influences of Ragged Schools it is difficult to imagine. "This Ragged School movement and kindred institutions," exclaimed the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, at the great meeting held at the Guildhall to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Lord Shaftesbury, "have been

the one leading means of making London a safe place to dwell in." It is no small achievement for the Ragged School system to have taken off the streets of London more than 300,000 of the waifs and strays of humanity, who were fast filling the ranks of the criminal and dangerous classes, and to have raised them from the lowest depths of misery and degradation to be good and useful citizens. This alone demands some recognition at the hands of those who wish well to their country and to their kind. Nor should it be forgotten that juvenile crime—which, at the commencement of the Ragged School system, was of alarming proportions—has decreased to an almost incredible extent during the last thirty years. So much good, at so small a cost, has never before been accomplished, while all the agencies called forth by the establishment of the Ragged School Union are still in active operation.

Lord Shaftesbury again appeals for funds to carry on this great work, and we can only express our earnest hope that the appeal may not be in vain, and that many new and liberal subscribers will be forthcoming to carry on the beneficent operations of the Committee for the benefit of the poor, young and old, for whom the Ragged School Union was established. It is not the will of your Heavenly Father that one of these little ones should perish.

The following is his lordship's appeal and the circular to which it refers:—

THE RAGGED SCHOOLS OF LONDON.

THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

Established 1844.

October, 1882.

SIR,—May I request your favourable attention to the annexed circular?

I cannot but view with dismay, and sorrow, the prospect of any diminution of our agencies for the religious education and temporal welfare of the ragged children. I am grieved, indeed, that we cannot extend them; for the necessity is very great, and in respect of that particular class nearly as great as ever.

Having been connected with this movement from the very beginning, I can bear witness to the blessings it has conferred, by God's blessing, on the most destitute of our people.

Your obedient servant,

THE RAGGED SCHOOLS OF LONDON.

THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

Established 1844.

President: THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.

Treasurer: R. C. L. BEVAN, Esq.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union appeal for funds for the support of the schools and other benevolent operations carried on for the benefit of the neglected poor of both sexes and of all ages, in all the most thickly populated and wretched portions of London and its suburbs. It is calculated that during the thirty-eight years of the Society's existence upwards of 300,000 children have been rescued from the ranks of the criminal and dangerous classes, and made good and useful citizens.

There are now in connection with the Society—

203 Sabbath Afternoon and Evening Schools, with an average attendance of 36,734 children, conducted by 3,157 voluntary teachers.

155 Week Night Schools, attended by 4,868 boys and girls above School Board age.

37 Ragged Day Schools for 4,367 children.

63 Industrial Classses, attended by 2,773 children.

During the past year at least—

1,200 scholars were sent to situations.

665 scholars, from 62 Ragged Schools, received prizes at the hands of Lord Shaftesbury for having kept their situations with good characters for at least twelve months.

296 young people became communicants.

262 scholars were added to the lists of voluntary teachers.

In a large number of the Schools, Mission Services are held, and Entertainments of an elevating and instructing character are given. There are 96 School Libraries, 79 Penny Banks for the encouragement of thrift, 44 Clothing Clubs, besides Bands of Hope, Reading Rooms, Youths' Institutes, Parents' Meetings, Prayer Meetings, Bible Classes, and other useful efforts.

The Committee, while acknowledging the important work done by the London School Board, submit that the operations carried on by the Union are, for the most part, beyond the scope of the Board's influence and powers, and still indispensable for the well-being of the masses for whom Ragged Schools were originally established.

The regular income of the Society is altogether inadequate to its requirements. Last year the expenditure exceeded the income by nearly £1,000.

Subscriptions and donations are now much needed, and will be thankfully received by the treasurer, R. C. L. Bevan, Esq. (Barclay, Bevan, and Co.), 54, Lombard Street, E.C., and by the secretary, Mr. John Kirk, Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall, Strand, London, W.C.

A TOUCHING INSTANCE OF ATTACHMENT TO THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

A LADY residing in Gloucester Gardens, Hyde Park, being very ill, and feeling the uncertainty of life, forwarded her subscription on September 22nd, which is not due till the month of December.

EVENING WORK.

NIGHT SCHOOLS—INDUSTRIAL CLASSES—YOUTHS' INSTITUTES.

THE two months' vacancy having now expired, Mr. Curtis, the organising secretary, will be glad to hear from friends who intend undertaking work, or who have resumed their Night School work or evening work of any kind.

In order to obtain help from the Committee of the Ragged School Union there must be a definite period of instruction combined with religious exercises, such as singing and prayer and occasional definite religious teaching.

While the friends in general speak approvingly of the boys and girls now at school, on account of their ability to read, and some mental awakening, which constitutes a degree of preparation for receiving the seed of the kingdom, there is a general agreement among them as to the ignorance of letters of very many elder boys and girls, whose only hope in this respect is the provision made for evening teaching. The help afforded towards the cost of teachers and of doorkeeper (where needed) is very liberal.

SCHOLARS' PRIZES.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1882.

THE Committee of the Ragged School Union, being desirous to encourage good conduct and long-continued service in all who have passed through the Schools of the Union, have again decided on giving prizes to young persons who have kept their situations with good character for twelve months or upwards and coming within the following

CONDITIONS:

1. They must be over twelve and under eighteen years of age.

2. They must have attended the Ragged School giving the recommendation at least six months *previously* to having entered the first situation held by them.

3. Having kept any one situation for twelve months, ending in 1882, they are allowed to make one change, but must not be out of place for more than two weeks; in this case they are eligible for the prize, provided they are in the second on December 31st, 1882. Certificates of character will be required from both of these situations.

4. If they have not before received a prize, they will now be entitled to seven shillings and sixpence, as well as a card, provided

the committee of the schools recommending pay two shillings and sixpence of it.

5. Those who have received a money prize previously, and are again recommended, will be entitled to an illuminated certificate, and a prize book, specially selected by the Committee of the Ragged School Union.

6. They must have been in regular attendance at the Ragged or other Sunday School for the *current* year. This rule does not apply to domestic servants.

7. Shoeblacks, occasional labourers, scholars partially employed, those engaged by their relatives, girls working in jute and cartridge factories, will not be eligible for the prizes.

8. Certificates must be furnished by the employers and school authorities, to show that these conditions have been complied with, and that good conduct has been continued to December 31st, 1882.

9. The candidate will lose the benefit of the prize if this application be not fully and accurately filled up, duly signed, and returned to the office, Exeter Hall, on or before January 27th, 1883.

The prizes may be given in books, clothes, or otherwise, as the committee of the school may determine.

Exeter Hall, August, 1882.

N.B.—Printed forms of application can be had, early in December, at the office, Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Boys and girls intending to claim these prizes should give notice of such intention to the Superintendent of the School *not later than November*.

CONFERENCES ON RAGGED SCHOOL WORK.

The Ragged School Union Committee have convened four conferences for the reading of short papers and discussions to follow, on topics which should be interesting to all Ragged School workers. The first will be held at Ogle Mews, Foley Street, Marylebone, on Wednesday, October 4th. The subject for the first conference will be "Our Winter Work! What is it? How can we enlarge our operations and make the work effective?" Chairman, Professor Leone Levi, LL.D. To be opened by Messrs. Fraser and Curtis.

The second conference will be held at George Yard, on Wednesday, October 11th. Subject, "Industrial Work, Night Schools and Youths' Institutes. How can we make these effective?" Chairman, E. E. Ashby, Esq., C.C. Openers: Richard Price, Esq., and Arthur Jepson, Esq.

The third will be held at Morton Road, Islington. Subject, "Recreation for Young and Old. What should it be?" Chairman, H. R. Williams, Esq. Openers: Mr. J. Cousens and Mr. W. M. King.

The fourth will be held at the Metropolitan Tabernacle (Rev. C. H. Spurgeon's). Subject, "Spiritual Work. What are the best means for promoting it amongst the young, and securing permanent results?" Chairman, The Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G. Openers: Messrs. J. Groom and C. M'Clure.

Tea will be provided on each occasion at 6.30 p.m., and the Meetings will commence at 7.30 p.m.

Monday, October 16th. Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington. A special address to Sunday and Ragged School teachers by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, at 7.30 p.m.

DAYS OF SPECIAL PRAYER.

SUNDAY, THE 15TH, AND MONDAY, THE 16TH OF OCTOBER.

GREAT advantage must accrue from the observance of special seasons set apart for united prayer. Prayer for a specific object by large numbers quickens spiritual life. Asking for a blessing on a particular work magnifies the work and ennobles the worker. Sympathy intensifies emotion and co-operation intensifies effort.

There is a sense sublime in the consciousness that hundreds of thousands of human souls are being stirred on some given day with one grand desire. Therefore we ask all Ragged School teachers to observe the two days which have been set apart by the Sunday School Union for public and private prayer for a Divine blessing on the work of teaching the young.

There are so many contradictory voices even among good people, that we need to pray that we may become not only good but *wise*. It is the fashion of the day to be running about with some new commandment. Amid the babel let us hear His voice who said, "A New Commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another."

FLOWER SERVICES, FLOWER SHOWS, AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITIONS.

THE interest taken by God in the happiness of His creatures is sweetly shown by the care He takes of flowers. The love of them is a pure and elevating affection. God placed our first parents in a garden, and though this place of beauty was lost through disobedience, yet the love of flowers remains as a natural instinct in their offspring which points back to the primal home. This innocent delight is turned to good account by several institutions, as the following reports show.

CHEQUER ALLEY.

On Sunday, July 2nd, the Rev. H. J. Berguer discoursed most sweetly upon the words contained in the Song of Solomon, 6th chapter, 2nd verse. The walls were alive with appropriate mottoes. The desk and platform were concealed by a bank of beautiful flowers, which skilful hands had most tastefully arranged, and from the roof plants and flowers were gracefully suspended. Appropriate hymns were sung by the children, and each scholar on leaving was presented with a small bouquet.

In the evening of the same day Mr. R. R. Glover preached a flower sermon to a large gathering of parents from the following text:—

Matthew vi. 28, 29, "Consider the lilies," &c.

One of our greatest poets was William Wordsworth, commonly called the Poet of Nature, because he loved Nature and never tired of writing about her. (*He is a happy man that loves Nature. She will never deceive or disappoint him, and in her thousand beauties she will always yield him the purest pleasure.*) Well, Wordsworth loved nature, and among other things, he said of her the following, in one of his poems:—

> "Thanks to the human heart by which we live,
> Thanks to its tenderness, its joys, and fears,
> To me the meanest flower that blows can give
> Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears."

Our attention is to be called to-night particularly to *Flowers*. Let us contemplate them lovingly, devoutly; and let us try to get some thoughts from them like those of the poet, or, better still, like those Christ got from His contemplation of the lilies.

The verses which constitute our text, form part of the Sermon on the Mount, the greatest sermon ever preached. Just picture to yourself the scene. There is no church or chapel; the blue sky only is overhead; there is no pulpit; Christ has seated Himself on the side of the mountain, and He is surrounded by His disciples. He talks to them of many things in heaven and earth, and as familiarly of the one place as the other, of our relation to God as of our earthly relationships. Among other things, on that sunny day, He was dissuading them from anxiety about everyday life, about food and raiment, and on the latter point He takes for a text a lily, or it may have been some other flower (probably there was one beside Him), and He delivers the beautiful sentiments from it which are contained in the verses I have read.

Let us try to do what He did. Let us consider the lilies. Let us

ponder them lovingly, ask them whence they came, what they are, and what lessons they have for us in this nineteenth century, under the manifold temptations amid which we live; and in order to do this let us consider the array of the lily, as proved by

(*a*) Observation.

The array of Mechanism. Every flower is a marvel of mechanical skill. All the works of man, the most complex and costly, those on which genius and talent have expended their utmost labour, are not once to be compared to a flower. The flower comes from a little seed which has to find its food, to grow from infancy to childhood, and from childhood to maturity. You would smile if I were to say that the flowers had their breakfast and dinner and supper; and yet something of this kind goes on. Their food is the earth in which their succulent roots are embedded; the dew, the summer rain, the gentle breeze, the air of heaven, the light of day, the darkness of the night, these are all the food on which this wonderful piece of mechanism thrives. Its root, its stem, its leaves, and its flower have all their part to play in absorbing and imbibing its nutriment from the earth and the elements round about it. But let us take another view of the lily.

The array of Beauty. All this mechanism of the flower is for a purpose—viz., to produce *Beauty*. Beauty of colour, beauty of fragrance, beauty of variety. Did you ever see anything like it? The red, the blue, the green, the scent of the rose, of the lily, of the hawthorn, of the wallflower. No two species alike. The rose as unlike the lily as a horse unlike an ox, and no flower of the same species like another. Oh, what oceans of Beauty!! what infinite resources must there be in the mind that creates these frail children of the field. What would the world be without flowers? Children of God as they are, bearing the impress of His own Beauty; pure as He is pure, clean and fresh as the freshness of the morning; gladdening us when we awake from the gloomy winter and making us feel that we still live in a world that is furnished by a loving Father, who would teach us to be beautiful and pure in our lives, by surrounding us with Beauty. But again, there is

The array of Utility. Do not imagine for one moment that all this beauty is for the eye only. It is, like all God's creatures, for use. But flowers are no use, surely; we never cook and eat flowers. Well, suppose we don't. There are other things to be fed besides man, and the flowers are largely the food of these other things. Where do the bee and the butterfly, and the multitude of insects which no man can number—where do they get their food? Largely from the flowers. But the insects again are the food of the birds; so, if there

were no flowers, there would be no birds, and if there were no birds the caterpillars and other noxious insects would destroy the food of man, would consume it, and man would perish. So you see that flowers are not only miracles of mechanism and gems of surpassing beauty, but they are an absolute necessity in the economy of nature, without which the world would come to a standstill. Did you ever think of that before? Then we get honey from the flowers, and scents and medicines from the flowers, and we learn purity and refinement and delicacy from the flowers. They are little silent monitors, dumb preachers, bidding us be pure as they are pure, holy as their Maker is holy. The flower is useful; it contributes its share to the comfort and well-being of the world which gives it birth. It is a productive labourer, a vessel full of fitness and meekness for the Master's use.

(*b*) Contrast.

Christ not only calls attention to the intrinsic beauty of the lily, but to its contrast with the barbaric splendour of Solomon's court. We men think much of worldly splendour. The lower, meaner creatures we are, the more we think of money, of material wealth, of show, of that which gives us distinction among the envious crowd. The higher and purer we become as men the more we despise material wealth, and love that which is pure and fresh from the hand of God. Let us take a glance at the glory of Solomon. In the Book of Kings we read such things as these:—

"Solomon had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, 12,000 horsemen . . ."

"The weight OF GOLD that came to Solomon in one year six hundred three score and six talents of gold, and King Solomon made 200 targets of beaten gold: 600 shekels of gold went to one target. And he made 300 shields of beaten gold; three pounds of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the Forest of Lebanon."

"Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold. The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom."

"And all King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver."

"So King Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and wisdom."

Such are some of the items of the array of *Solomon*. And yet says Christ, "*I* say unto you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (lilies).

Solomon was rough, polluted, enervating (in his influence), and his glory was the product of slavery and misery.

The lily was refined, pure, elevating (in its influence), the handiwork of God.

This, then, is what Christ thought of the lilies. Don't you love Him for saying such beautiful things? Don't you love them when you know what He thinks of them?

Now, so much for *Christ's* estimate of the *flowers*. Let us now try to pick up a few lessons from them.

1. The lesson He taught, *Faith in God*.—He was talking to men who were anxious about to-morrow. They could not see into futurity. They were not in want now, but they might be. They had raiment for the present, but it was not very apparent where the garments of *two years hence were to come from*. God is here now, and good to us, but He may be dead two years hence, or we may be neglected by Him. The strength and energy through which He helps us now, will then be wanting, and we cannot even imagine through what channel He will then reach us. Christ says, "Look at the lilies;" frail, helpless little waifs that they are. "They toil not, neither do they spin." They simply exist. They wait on God. They hold out their little cups to be filled with His Dew. They draw nutriment night and day from His Earth. He makes *His Sun* to shine upon them, and they laugh and smile in His face. They are never gloomy, never anxious. They seem to believe in the future as much as in the present; that God will be there with His dew and rain, and wind and sunshine, and warmth, and that provision for their life with all its beauty will be made for them. Take no thought for raiment. "Consider the lilies." "Have faith and you'll get through." It is often dark with many of you, I know. There are times when there are no lilies to look at, nothing to remind us of God or His care. When faith is *hard* and despair easy, and the shadows are gathering, and the clouds deepening in gloom. Well, I say, *Remember the lilies*. Remember the Friend of the lilies. He is never far off in the darkest night, in the deadest days of winter. He doesn't know us? He never comes near *us here?* How dare you say so? His lilies are here to-night in profusion before you, and HE is here. His day's work is to feed the lilies, but He is *here*, always at leisure for you and me. The Friend that never changes; the same yesterday, to-day, for ever; who can make us beautiful and fragrant as the lily. "Lo, *I* am with you unto the end of the world."

2. Learn economy, moderation and wisdom from the lily. How wisely it absorbs its food! It never gorges itself. It takes what it needs, and takes no more. It lacks nothing, it wastes nothing, it never spoils digestion by anxiety. Consider the lilies.

3. Learn from the lily to live a modest, fragrant life. Do not be a nuisance in the world. Be a fragrant life, without ostentation, seeking nothing in return. Live a pure and holy life. Emit a saintly fragrance. Consider the lilies.

On the following day a very large gathering of parents took place, for whom tea was provided by Mr. R. R. Glover. The after meeting was presided over by James Duncan, Esq. After singing "Let us gather up the sunbeams," and some few pertinent remarks from the chairman, the real business of the evening commenced, which was the distribution of prizes.

Mr. R. J. Moser distributed about one hundred prizes to the successful competitors at the Flower Show and Industrial Exhibition. Mr. R. R. Glover distributed the Ragged School Union prizes, and other prizes for early attendance at the Sunday School, and Mr. Thomas Ness gave the prizes to the week-night scholars for attendance, behaviour, and progress.

THE ANNUAL FLOWER SERVICE AT THE KING EDWARD RAGGED SCHOOL.

Bounded on the north by Spitalfields, and on the south by Whitechapel, there is a district extending from Osborne Street to Baker's Row, known by the high-sounding title of Mile End New Town. It is not a pleasant place; the small houses, often occupied by several families, evince the struggles of poverty to keep, as the phrase goes, "a roof over its head;" the squalid children, shoeless and tattered, that play about the courts and alleys of the neighbourhood, in defiance of School Board inspectors; the pale-faced, hard-working, but frequently untidy women that stand at the doors with infants in their arms; and the knots of ill-favoured-looking men that congregate around the local beershops, do not offer a tempting picture for the mere curious idler to visit. Yet in this miserable locality last Sunday was to be witnessed a sight that would have given pleasure to the more wealthy denizens of this vast metropolis, even as it gladdened the hearts of the poor inhabitants. We have frequently referred in these columns to the King Edward Ragged Schools, where so much good is accomplished, so much sorrow alleviated, and so much comfort, both spiritual and temporal, is dispensed. Here, then, is the scene that we wish our readers to picture to themselves, the occasion being the "Annual Flower Sermon." The idea, we believe, originated with

Mr. Charles Montague, the honorary superintendent of the schools, for which he works assiduously year by year in such an unassuming manner. Appeals were sent to many benevolent ladies and gentlemen for contributions of flowers for the service, and most generously were they responded to. From far and wide came boxes and baskets and hampers, laden with the finest specimens of noble gardens. Conservatories and hot-houses appeared to have been ransacked to furnish the gladsome sight for the poor people. Even the members of the Royal Family did not think the occasion too mean for their assistance, and valuable contributions were sent from Marlborough House, Kensington Palace, and Windsor. It may readily be imagined what a stir was caused in the neighbourhood on Sunday evening by the arrival of one of the Prince of Wales's servants, bearing two large and beautifully arranged baskets of choice flowers, each bearing the inscription, "Marlborough House. From the Princess of Wales to Mr. Charles Montague," thus showing the kindly sympathy for the poor that is felt by the highest in the land. Among the other contributors were their Royal Highnesses the Princess Mary of Teck and the Duchess of Connaught; the Duchesses of Marlborough, Wellington, Abercorn, and Buccleuch; the Marchionesses of Aylesbury, Ailsa, Bath, Cholmondeley, Ely, and Conyngham; the Countesses of Clarendon, Dudley, Darnley, Rosslyn, Winterton, Harewood, Clanwilliam, Egmont, Sidney, Zetland, Amhurst, Effingham, Bective, Glasgow, Stanhope, Portsmouth, Cowper, Stamford and Warrington; the Ladies Burdett, Astley, Brooke-Middleton, Aberdare, Arthur Hill; the Earl of Devon, and Lord Hill. Thus it will be seen what interest was taken in the matter, and it may readily be imagined what a glorious display of floral wealth was exhibited to the astonished eyes of these poor people. Mr. Aylmer, of Whitechapel, kindly lent the flower-stands, arches, and hanging baskets, and devoted a good deal of time in helping to arrange the plants.

In order that as many as possible should participate in the enjoyment of witnessing such a beautiful sight, there were three services held during the day; in the morning the parents of the children attending the schools were invited, when an excellent address was delivered by Mr. Burchill, and on leaving each was presented with a bouquet of the pretty flowers. In the afternoon came the children to listen to the kindly words of the Rev. William Tyler and Mr. J. Williams, the little ones all carrying away a pleasing souvenir of the occasion. The evening service was for adults and the senior scholars, and was altogether of a most interesting character. Everybody on entering the room was handed a bouquet from two large hampers that were placed near the door, and the effect was really grand.

Everywhere that they could be placed were flowers and plants, hanging from the ceiling in the baskets before mentioned, in the recesses of the windows, round the gas brackets, and on stands in different parts of the room. But special care had been taken with the platform and temporary pulpit, where the choicest specimens had been placed, and which presented a picture of nature's brightest handiwork, that must have had an effect even on the coarsest mind. From the central arch were suspended grapes, cherries, tomatoes, and other fruits, the intervening spaces being filled up with ivy and Virginia creepers, very gracefully arranged. Dr. Flack, Mr. J. G. Gent, Mr. Pratt, and Mr. Montague took part in the service, and Mr. John Husband delivered the sermon, taking as his text the appropriate words from Isaiah, 35th chapter, 1st verse, "The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose," being listened to with great attention.

At the close of the service Mr. H. R. Williams, addressing the meeting, spoke of the great kindness exhibited by the Princess of Wales and the other members of the Royal Family, and in a thorough heartfelt speech expressed the hope that their lives might be long spared to be a blessing to the country.

The next day a distribution of the flowers among the residents of the district took place, and many a humble home was made the brighter, and let us hope that many hearts were made more cheerful through the instrumentality of those kind friends who had sent such beautiful presents to this poor neighbourhood. We understand that before the spoliation Mr. Bradshaw, of Newgate Street, was called in, and an excellent picture (which we have given as a frontispiece) has been secured as a pleasing reminiscence of the pretty scene.

A FLOWER SHOW IN BETHNAL GREEN.

Old Nichol Street, Bethnal Green, is not the place where you would expect to find an array of beautiful flowers. Dirty houses, squalid courts and streets teeming with men, women, and children sitting and rolling on the pavement may be found there at any time, day or night; but flowers, the beautiful work of God, seem to have no place in such a scene. Nevertheless, it is in Old Nichol Street, Bethnal Green, that a most successful flower show and industrial exhibition was held under the auspices of the teachers and friends of the Ragged School and Mission established there some thirty years ago in connection with Dr. Allon's church at Islington. The show was opened on Wednesday, July 12, at three o'clock.

On entering the building we find the somewhat dingy workaday appearance transformed by willing, active hands into a scene of

brightness and light. Flags and banners hang across and around the room; mottoes and texts, bannerets and pictures, all help to enliven the scene. The plants are arranged on stands down the sides of the room, and the articles made and exhibited by the scholars occupy the centre table. Let us look first at the plants. Of these, 430 were distributed in April last (fuchsias, geraniums, calceolarias, musk, &c.), and we find 306 have arrived and appeared in the show, and 76 have been tended with such care as to be worthy of a prize. A well-trained fuchsia, full of bloom, exhibited by a girl ten years old, gains a first prize; a creeping-jenny, shown by a boy of ten, a first prize; a beautiful geranium, cared for by a boy eleven years old, a first prize; and many more we notice all kept with care. Some wonderful designs in cress attract our attention. Beer-bottles (empty) clothed from top to bottom with living green, and a birdcage, with a nest inside, all covered with growing cress, exhibited by a boy of thirteen years; also a temple with a statue inside. Turning to the exhibits, of which there are close upon 100, we find great interest and skill displayed, especially in the needlework, which is the result of teaching in the Sewing Class held two evenings in the week all through the winter. We notice a doll dressed by four girls for the children of a neighbouring hospital has gained four prizes, each for different articles of clothing. Many beautiful texts, worked on card-board with silk and wool, neatly framed, the owners of which we are pleased to learn value them so highly that they are not for sale. Patchwork quilts, pinafores, paper flowers; and a "daisy" mat in woolwork, beautifully clean, deservedly gains a first prize.

The boys are not one whit behind with their exhibits. We notice a plush footstool, made by a boy aged seventeen, gains a first prize; a banjo, made of polished cocoanut shell, by a boy, aged sixteen, a first prize; a fretwork frame, a carved puzzle, by a boy of ten; an armchair (second prize) made and upholstered by a boy of seventeen; a carved letter-rack by a boy of fifteen; a miniature table, with inlaid centre ornament, made and polished by a boy of fifteen, gains a first prize; a model village in cardboard, made by a boy of nine; some wax flowers; a pair of candlesticks turned and twisted by a youth of eighteen.

It was pleasing to find the interest the parents of the children took in the show, and to hear them discuss the merits of the various articles. Many came during the three days the show was open, and many friends from Highbury found time to pay a visit.

On Friday morning the prizes were distributed in the Mission Hall by the Rev. Septimus Hansard, the Vicar of Bethnal Green, and with him on the platform was Mr. Jonathan Duthoit, the founder of the school.

The rev. gentleman gave an introductory address, in which he described his own successful experiments in the vicarage garden only a few yards away from the school, and after some words of advice and counsel to the large audience of parents and children present, proceeded to distribute the prizes, all of which were handsomely-framed pictures.

The numbers given were 49 third-class, 33 second-class, and 34 first-class prizes. Mr. Hansard then gave away 54 prizes for regular attendance and orderly conduct at the Week Evening Schools during the winter. These prizes consisted of articles chosen by the scholars themselves. The proceedings were enlivened by some excellent singing by trained scholars under leadership of Mr. Woodland Erlebach.

LOVE LANE MISSION, SHADWELL.

Flower Show and Industrial Exhibition.

The repetition of this delightful show was made possible through the kindness of C. E. Seth Smith, Esq., who provided the prize money, £10. There were 240 exhibitors of flowers and needlework. During the three days the exhibition was open it was visited by more than 1,200 children and adults. Many works of art were contributed, which constituted a graceful framework to the pictures of skill and beauty furnished by the youthful competitors. Mrs. C. E. Seth Smith performed the grateful task of prize distributor. Some kind friends materially helped by the performance of good music.

FLOWER SHOW, MANSFIELD STREET.

Early in the spring packets of seeds, with garden pots and mould, and short, needful directions were given out; about a month later, cuttings of plants were distributed. A committee of ladies was appointed to visit the homes of the children from time to time to see how the plants were getting on.

At the time of the show there were 120 entries of plants from the children for competition. The parents sent plants of their own growing for exhibition only. Both parents and children sent also specimens of their industry, so that the show broadened out into a combined display of work and flowers. The attendance on the two days of the exhibition was so great that, although the price of admission to visitors was small, the receipts were sufficient to cover all expenses.

SERMON LANE MISSION.

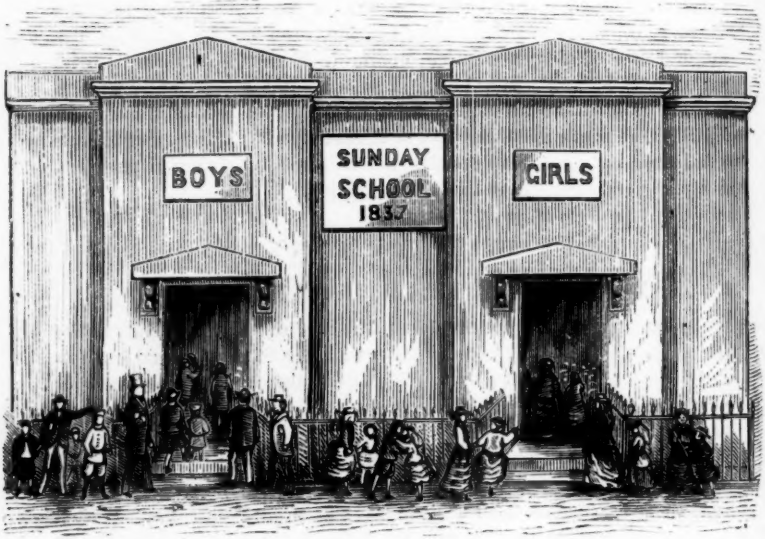
The third annual flower show was held at this Mission on the 3rd August, the hall being tastefully decorated with tropical plants, ferns, and flowers, the young plants (which were kindly given by F. Bright, Esq.) and seeds having been distributed three months previously to those children who chose to apply for them. There were about 150 exhibits, some of them being very good specimens, showing they had been reared with great care, and deservedly received prizes. Prizes were also given for last year's plants and three-year-old plants, all having been exhibited at former shows. The prizes were distributed by Mr. Luther Hinton, conductor of the London Sunday School Choir, who gave a few encouraging remarks to each of the recipients. During the evening the choir of the Sunday School performed very creditably Farmer's oratorio "Christ and His Soldiers." Mr. A. J. White, who has so efficiently trained the choir, conducted, and may well be congratulated on the way in which the performance went off, as it not only shows unceasing labour and care, but also his love for the children in giving them such enjoyable employment and healthy exercise.

LONDON STREET.—A MARRIAGE GIFT.

A VERY interesting tea-meeting was held on the 9th of July at the residence of Mr. Ward in connection with the Sunday School work in London Street, Bethnal Green. The meeting was convened in order to present two young friends (teachers in the school) with a most handsome timepiece on the occasion of their marriage. The testimonial was subscribed for by their fellow-teachers, the senior scholars, and other friends. The Rev. W. Tyler presided; there were also present the Rev. R. T. Thomas, Mr. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, and several other friends interested in the welfare of the young married people. After partaking of a delicious cup of tea the chairman presented the testimonial, making very appropriate and suitable remarks, showing our young friends how to begin life in such a manner as to command success. The Superintendent (Mr. Ward), the Secretary (Mr. Williams), and Mr. Curtis, also addressed the meeting. Mr. Barrett responded, and thanked all present on behalf of himself and his young bride for their handsome gift and their good wishes. The meeting separated, every one highly pleased, and realising the words of the Psalmist, "How pleasant it is to see brethren dwell together in unity."

MANSFIELD STREET SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THOMAS CRANFIELD.

SURREY CHAPEL, now only a name, has been, ever since its erection by the Rev. Rowland Hill, a vast hive of busy workers for the Master; and one of the most successful societies now being carried on by the church under the pastoral care of the Rev. Newman Hall is that founded in the year 1802 by Thomas Cranfield, "The Southwark Sunday School Society," under the presidency of Rev. Rowland Hill. It claims to have established the first Sunday School in London in the year 1785, and has grown to such an extent as to employ about 400



teachers in its thirteen schools, which contain about 6,000 scholars. This gigantic work is sustained, so far as labour is concerned, by the sister churches of Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle and Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Road (built in perpetuation of Surrey Chapel).

Thomas Cranfield, the father of the Ragged School movement in London, was truly a brand plucked from the burning. Born in Southwark, in the year 1758, he spent the early part of his life in sinful folly and dissipation of the grossest kind. Having absconded from his employment, he enlisted as a soldier, and, being ordered abroad on active service, the thought of being for ever separated from his

friends led him to reflect on the folly of his conduct, and the awful destiny which awaited him if he still remained unsaved. After a long period of mental trouble he at last found peace under the ministry of the Rev. W. Romaine, and soon gave practical proof of his conversion by open-air preaching in the City Road. Undaunted by persecution, he persevered in the good work, and the young enthusiast opened his house for prayer, and held a prayer-meeting at five o'clock every morning for the brickmakers of Kingsland, and many souls were won for Christ by his instrumentality. He was so generous that he suffered many privations in order to minister to the poorer members of his flock. After labouring several years in the north of London, his attention was directed to the fearful amount of sin and blasphemy which abounded in South London, especially in the neighbourhood of the Mint. The first school established by his own unaided effort was in Dockhead. This being fairly successful, he started another in Amicable Row, Kent Street, one of the lowest neighbourhoods of London. This was followed by the establishment of another in the Mint, two others in Gravel Lane, and lastly one in Garden Row, London Road. Ragged Schools were not nearly so popular then as now, for these efforts on behalf of the destitute class met with determined opposition, and but for the timely assistance given by Rowland Hill and the friends at Surrey Chapel the work must have collapsed. Voluntary helpers could not be obtained in sufficient numbers, therefore a fund was established for supplying paid teachers, and for boots and shoes for the necessitous *scholars and teachers*. Several of the schools were situated in swampy neighhbourhoods, and in wet weather the streets were almost impassable.

Thomas Cranfield was a man of remarkable faith and earnestness in prayer. When a Mr. Kirk was announced to preach to the children of the Southwark Sunday School Society, he spent the whole night in prayer for a blessing. Fifty-five years were thus spent in the blessed service of his Saviour. His son Richard grew up a devoted adherent of the Sunday School cause, and three generations of Cranfields have lived and laboured in the same blessed work.

The last school established by him (Garden Row) was his Benjamin. In it he loved to labour and develop his pet schemes for promoting the spiritual growth of his pupils. Founded in 1802, in course of time it outgrew its limited accommodation, and the Southwark Sunday School Society found a site in the immediate neighbourhood, and erected the present commodious building, capable of holding 800 children, in Mansfield Street, in the year 1837. Its first superintendent was David Heward, the organist of Surrey Chapel, a man of intense love for the souls of the children, under whom the school

enjoyed much prosperity. It is recorded of him that when he was lying dangerously ill, and at the point of death, a special prayer-meeting was held for his recovery, and the request was made that, if it pleased the Lord, like the King Hezekiah, fifteen years might be added to his life. Is it remarkable that the prayer was heard? He died on the day exactly fifteen years afterwards. For the last twelve years it has been under the superintendence of Mr. Edward Johnson, who has been connected with the school from his infancy.

This year is commemorated its eightieth anniversary, and we are glad to report its continued prosperity and its great usefulness as a mission station in one of the darkest neighbourhoods of London. Since its formation many thousands have passed through the school. Some who were scholars are now teachers in this and other schools, some have become pastors of churches, and many are labouring as missionaries in foreign lands.

There are now two schools in active operation, with a separate staff of teachers, and, to a large extent, a different class of children. The morning and afternoon schools are both superintended by Mr. E. Johnson, and the evening school by Mr. S. Coombs. The evening school was founded in the year 1860 by Mr. Joseph Johnson, who, like his brother, has been connected with the school almost from the time of its erection. With a staff of six teachers he struggled on manfully in the face of much opposition, and sustained the work until other friends rallied to his assistance, and now it has a staff of forty teachers and over 700 scholars.

In the winter months the room is open every night in the week for meetings, conducted by the day and evening workers alternately.

There is a Penny Bank, which meets on Monday evening, open to the parents and children of both schools. The number of deposits made during the year is 3,600.

The Band of Hope has 160 members.

On Wednesday a service is held for children, and the school is frequently crowded.

A Girls' Sewing Class has seventy members. Four hundred articles of clothing have been made during the year.

The Shirt Club has made and sold at a small cost 178 shirts to poor lads.

The Boot Club has provided 69 children with boots, which have been paid for by small weekly subscriptions.

There is also a Girls' Reading Class for those who are above School Board age.

Mothers' Meeting—40 mothers attend.

During the year the two schools have sold 7,167 magazines, which are bound into volumes at its close.

By means of the the Library we have not only benefited the children, but the parents also.

A Youths' Recreation Club is held on Saturday night from five till ten for the study of chess and draughts. A supply of weekly papers lies on the tables, refreshments are supplied at moderate cost, and lectures, discussions, and entertainments of various kinds are held. In the summer months this club changes into a Cricket Club.

Thus the good work goes on. An account of the Flower Show will be found on page 154.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY AT OAK LODGE, HIGHGATE.

THURSDAY, July 20th, was a happy day at Oak Lodge, Jackson's Lane, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Williams. The occasion was the annual visit of the girls of the King Edward Certified Industrial Schools, of which, together with the King Edward Ragged Schools, Mr. H. R. Williams is treasurer, and Mr. J. H. Lloyd hon. secretary.

Some thirty-six years ago the earl, then Lord Ashley, presided at the opening of the King Edward Ragged Schools, Mile End New Town. An interesting article appeared in the *Ragged School Union Quarterly Record* for July, 1876, entitled, "Thirty Years: A Retrospect. The Stable—The School—The Refuge," in which the rise and growth of this institution are graphically portrayed. It has so developed and broadened out as to comprise a network of beneficent agencies, numbering some forty distinct operations. The Ragged School proper has 750 children and 300 adults under its protecting wing.

Instead of an ordinary day Ragged School, which for many years formed an important part of the work, there are two certified Industrial Schools, one situated at Albert Street, Mile End, the other at Cambridge Heath, Hackney Road, in which are sheltered and trained, under the care of experienced matrons and teachers, some 200 girls rescued from crime and miserable surroundings through the agency of the various police-courts.

The children and twenty of the former inmates, now doing well in domestic service, reached the grounds by 9 a.m. The day was genial and brilliant.

Dinner and tea, and abundant provisions for their enjoyment in other ways, were provided for them, besides which about 150 ladies and gentlemen were entertained at luncheon by Mr. and Mrs. Williams in honour of the occasion. The Earl of Shaftesbury attended in the afternoon to distribute the annual prizes and other rewards, but felt

himself unable to attend the luncheon owing to the serious illness of a friend, Mr. Haldane, proprietor and editor of the *Record*. Amongst those present were Sir R. P. Beauchamp, Bart., and Lady Violet Beauchamp, Dr. Macaulay, Rev. Dr. McAuslane, Rev. Dr. Craig, Rev. R. C. Billing, M.A., Rev. D. Trinder, M.A., Rev. J. Viney, Rev. G. D. Bartlet, Rev. W. Tyler, Professor Tomlinson, Professor Russell, Mr. W. P. Bodkin, J. P., Dr. Clothier, Mr. C. Tyler, Mr. J. Clarke, Mr. W. H. Collingridge, Captain Bird, &c. At the luncheon Mr. Williams gave some particulars in connection with the schools, and stated that two deaths had occurred there during the year. The one case was that of a little girl named Brindle, who formerly lived at Highgate, who was a great favourite with the teachers and her companions. The other case was that of a canary, which, having obtained admission to the schools by way of the chimney, was cleaned and caged, but had unfortunately been pounced upon by the cat. As specimens of the kind of children being trained in the schools, Mr. Williams said that one just admitted was a girl who, with her mother, was charged with begging, the father being under sentence of six years' penal servitude. Two children were lately received from the Highgate Police-court, aged respectively eleven and thirteen, who had been sent out with begging letters written by an elder sister, aged sixteen, who represented herself as a widow with four young children. About ninety per cent. of these children turned out well after their training in the schools.

After luncheon the company separated to witness the pastimes of the children, reassembling in the marquee later in the afternoon, when the Earl of Shaftesbury presided at a distribution of prizes, &c. Mr. J. H. Lloyd, the honorary secretary, reported on the work of the schools, after which the noble earl distributed money rewards to former inmates who had kept their first situations for one year, and to girls who had shown thrift in their situations, besides which his lordship distributed a number of books and money prizes to present inmates for excellence of character and proficiency in school and domestic work. Lady Violet Beauchamp also distributed some medals. At the close of the distribution one of the principal prizetakers was called forward by Mr. Williams to read to his lordship the following letter, her own composition, written in competition with other girls:—

King Edward Certified Industrial School,
July 19th, 1882.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.

My Lord,—We think it a very great favour indeed to be allowed to write to your lordship. We shall be very glad to see you at

Highgate, and hope you will get there safely and also get back safely. It is a very great privilege for us to have the happiness of seeing you distribute the prizes and medals to our two Homes, and I am sure all the girls will appreciate it very much, as it will be the first time, and we all hope it will not be the last. It is very kind indeed of Mr. and Mrs. Williams letting us come to spend a delightful day at their house, and we are very much obliged to them. We hope your lordship will accept a little present of six pairs of socks made by the girls of these Homes. If the socks are not long enough, we shall be very much delighted to alter them for you, as we had to make them by guess, because we did not know the size of your lordship's foot.

Believe me,

Yours very respectfully,

MATILDA VINE.

Lord Shaftesbury thanked the girl very much for her letter, and cordially shook hands with her, after which the six girls who had made the socks each presented a pair to him, his lordship thanking and shaking hands with each girl. Mr. Henry Spicer, Chairman of the Industrial Schools Committee of the London School Board, who spoke in high terms of the King Edward Schools, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Williams on behalf of the children, which was seconded by the Rev. D. Trinder. Mr. Williams responded, and proposed a vote of thanks to the Earl of Shaftesbury, who for the last thirty-five or thirty-six years had taken a special interest in these King Edward Schools. The Rev. R. C. Billing, M.A., rector of Spitalfields, seconded the motion. The Earl of Shaftesbury, in responding, spoke in cordial terms of approval of the work done by the schools, and of the truthful report read by Mr. Lloyd, and proposed a vote of thanks to that gentleman, which was heartily carried and appropriately responded to. The proceedings were interspersed by the singing of the children, and closed with the benediction, pronounced by the Rev. Dr. McAuslane.

Since the gathering, Lord Shaftesbury has sent the following characteristic reply to the children:—

24, Grosvenor Square, W., Aug. 2, 1882.

My dear Matilda Vine,—Your nice letter ought to have been answered long ago, but I have been so busy that I have not had a moment to myself.

Now, in the first place, my dear child, let me tell you, and you must tell all the other girls, that the socks fit me most admirably: they are beautifully made, and if you had measured my foot you could not have hit off the thing any better.

I got back quite safely, as you prayed I should; and I very much thank God for what I saw and heard on the day of the jollification of the children of the King Edward Schools at Mr. Williams's.

Whether I shall ever live to see you again I cannot say, but I shall wish to do so; and whether I do or do not, I shall pray most heartily that our Lord will bless and preserve you all in this world and in that which is to come.

Yours truly, my dear girl,

SHAFTESBURY.

CHILDREN'S OUTING.

A WRITER in the *Graphic* thus graphically writes of summer treats:—

"One of the most pleasant sights of London in summer is that of the vans which start in the morning laden with children for excursions into the country. A man must be of morose temperament who is not cheered for a moment by the sight of these little people laughing with faces as bright as soap and lively hopes can make them. London children of to-day are, happily, not the stunted, joyless, haggard little creatures whom Dickens used to paint, with touches which were never wholly free from exaggeration, whenever he introduced scenes of life in the poorer quarters. Indeed, old Londoners might have a difficulty in fixing the exact date at which all the children of the London poor were feeble and squalid, eking out dismal lives, and having no friends. In the worst days of much-decried Bumbledom there were good-natured beadles, kindly schoolmasters, benevolent employers, and the average young Cockney was a sturdy rough-and-tumble urchin, who would never have acknowledged that Jo, or Smike, or Oliver Twist's youthful tormentors were fair representatives of his class. But at all times the London child has dearly loved a breath of fresh country air. Even when open spaces were numerous in London, when large fields adjoined the City Road, and green lanes could be reached within half an hour's walk from any part of the Strand, the country was as attractive as it is now. Merry Islington with its dairies and cheese-cakes, or Chelsea with its tea-gardens, bathing-places, and boats, were as popular among young people as Epping and Barnet, Hampton and Kew are nowadays. Nor were they liked by children of the poor only, for the boys and girls of prosperous tradesmen, who then had their habitations in the City, were quite as fond of a jolly summer day's outing as the charity-school children, who, by the favour of liberal donors, or by the thoughtful bequests of founders, were occasionally taken out to enjoy themselves in bear-feasts or hay-making.

Time has pushed the country farther and farther away from the heart of London, but, with this difference, things are much as they used to be. London children, whether they ride in vans with bags of buns in their hands, or in grander vehicles, having choicely-stocked hampers under the box-seats, look forward to a summer holiday in the fields or woods as the greatest of treats. No matter whether the grass be parched by a blazing sun, whether the roads be dusty, or the air hot, the joy of the holiday and its benefit as a promoter of health come from the animation of the proceedings, from the novel sights and sounds which strike the young people's senses, in fact from the complete, refreshing change."

THE CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY.

Ragged Schools at Hampton Court and Forest House.

Though Coronation Day this year was not so generally observed as a holiday in certain Government departments as on former occasions, it was honoured in right loyal fashion by a number of those Ragged Schools which are still found to flourish in connection with the Ragged School Union. At an early hour many of the schools in various parts of London were astir with excitement, getting ready for the start, having their silken banners flying in the morning sunshine, and their faces glowing with the joy which the prospect of "a day in the country" inspired. One detachment travelled in vans, others were brought by trains from the Chatham and Dover Railway Stations, on the south side of London, from Waterloo Station, and from Camden Town, so that the entire muster, which assembled in Bushey Park shortly after 11 o'clock, was 1,400 strong, besides about 250 teachers and friends. The weather throughout the day was all that could be desired, and the sight of so large a number of the poorer class of children romping on the greensward beneath the grand old trees was one long to be remembered. A large proportion found sufficient diversion in commonplace games, others seemed to have a taste for rambling in search of curiosities, while not a few looked, probably for the first time, on the antique furniture and art treasures of Hampton Court Palace. The teachers and visitors dined together in a tent at one o'clock, the repast having been served in satisfactory style by Mr. Earee, of Hackney Road. After dinner there was a distribution of toys, and then followed a few brief speeches to those who were engaged in Ragged School work. Professor Leone Levi, of the Temple, regretted that the Earl of Shaftesbury was unavoidably absent, but he assured the friends that his lordship's interest in the

work was unabated. The influence of the Ragged School Union was still needed, and, happily, it was as great as ever in London. Dr. Levi then referred to the responsibility of an association which had 30,000 children in charge—young creatures who exercised some sort of Christian influence over 200,000 of the population. He hoped the teachers' labours might be accepted of God, and become still more far-reaching. They must, however, remember that they had a great work to do in the metropolis, a work far higher than any mere educational mission, and a work which no School Board could take from them. Mr. R. J. Curtis, the organising secretary of the Ragged School Union, said that he had known some of the friends for many years, and each occasion of meeting them increased his pleasure. The excursions gave an opportunity for the teachers to meet and to wish each other God-speed. As regarded the children, they came out and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and for their pleasure they were indebted to the Ragged School Union. Mr. Carr also spoke as an old worker, having for ten years acted as the superintendent of a school. He thought that all were especially indebted to Mr. John Kirk, the secretary of the Union, and who had organised their outing; for though they might get friends to give money and so on, they would get no pleasure without a good secretary to do the organising work. Mr. Kirk, in thanking the friends for their kindness to himself, said that he was there as a representative of the Union. He was glad to see them all so happy, with such genial weather, and hoped they might have as fine a day next year. There was no accident to mar the day's proceedings, and between seven and eight o'clock in the evening the various companies were all on the move in the direction of London, a proportion of the boys and girls carrying flowers or pieces of green as trophies of the fair, sweet country to friends at home.

On the following Friday some children and teachers went to Forest House, the seat of W. Fowler, Esq., M.P. The spacious park afforded everything needful for the children's enjoyment, so straying beyond bounds was not permitted.

A number of donkeys were hired, so that rides by relays could be obtained by all who desired without money and without price, and the oversight prevented any cruelty.

The children were supplied with a very abundant tea, which was served by Messrs. Earee, after which their happiness was increased by a distribution of toys.

This division of the excursion was arranged for the purpose of securing transit by rail, in preference to the vans; for while the latter will always be the more popular mode with the juveniles, it is doubt-

less attended with some evils which do not present themselves by the more expeditious iron way. It should, however, be noted that by careful oversight our excursions have always been free from the objectionable features rightly complained of. At the same time, where the rail is convenient it is no doubt preferable.

Happily both days were fine, and this of itself speaks volumes. It is astonishing the difference that a fine day makes. Sunshine seems to act as a sort of oiled feather to all the arrangements, making them run smoothly, without loss of temper and other accessories which somehow or other make themselves manifest in wet weather. If this good fortune is to be attributed to the early date fixed for the excursion, our noble President must be credited with it. With his usual sympathy with all that concerns poor children, his lordship expressly wished that the day in the country should be in June, and not later, as he significantly remarked, when the wet weather has set in.

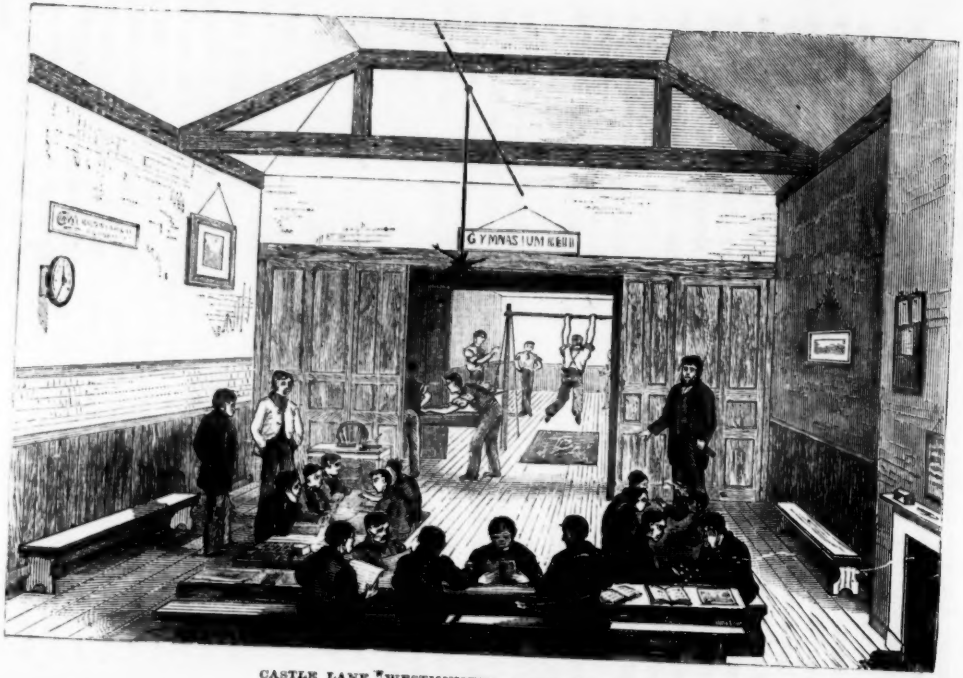
On Wednesday Professor Leone Levi, with equal courtesy and kindness, represented the Committee; and on Friday Mr. Burnet Tabrum was present, as well as the Rev. A. H. Atherton, Mrs. Edmund Pelly, and other local friends.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed by the teachers to Mr. Fowler for his kindness in granting the use of the beautiful grounds, and all returned happily, safely, and merrily to town, bringing pleasant memories of another enjoyable and sadly too infrequent "Day in the Country."

CASTLE LANE YOUTHS' CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE,

James Street, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.

The above institute is the outcome of a conference of Ragged School teachers held in October, 1880, under the auspices of the Ragged School Union. At this meeting assistance (in the shape of a small money grant) was promised to any school who saw their way clear to arrange a means of recreation for the elder youths on the week evenings, as a counter-attraction to allure from the many ensnaring temptations of amusement, London affords. Several of the teachers of the Castle Lane Ragged School, fully alive to the situation, embraced the opportunity, and formed a committee, who arranged to provide games, &c., several evenings each week for any who chose to avail themselves of the privilege on a payment of 1½d. per week. Some forty youths entered their names. The next winter eighty names were taken for membership. The arrangements comprise a reading-room, well supplied with papers and



CASTLE LANE, WESTMINSTER, YOUTHS' INSTITUTE.

magazines of a pure tone and lively type, together with games at chess, draughts, dominoes, &c., &c.; educational and drawing classes; also a good Bible class, held once a week, from which evidence has been given that much good has been done; occasional lectures and entertainments. The temperance question has not been lost sight of, meetings being held monthly, a good many having donned "the little badge of blue." In the summer arrangements are made for outdoor amusements and social gatherings, together with cricket and swimming. The committee are making full arrangements for the coming winter session, a letter with programme being sent to each member. Special measures are being taken to make the reading-room, classes, &c., as attractive as possible. The gymnasium will be improved, together with the library, which will have a good supply of new books.

The committee are looking forward with hope to the future of this work. We cannot estimate the use such an institute is to the youth and young men of the working classes, affording as it does an opportunity of good amusement and recreation with society in the long winter evenings, and more especially to those who devote their spare time to study and improvement of the mind.

Any means of keeping the young fellows from sheer idleness cannot but have a good result. In the institute we first provide a warm and comfortable room, with games and lively papers; then, further, we seek to fashion and form good and upright characters by the Bible classes, &c. We are pleased to say we find no difficulty in getting any amount of young fellows of the right sort, but *funds* are *greatly wanted* to supply many needful arrangements. In reviewing the work, we feel we can say God hath blessed the earnest and hearty work of the promoters of the institute, and we trust the effort may continue to prosper to the glory of Him "who doeth all things well."

"INASMUCH."

THE context is well known. It is therefore only necessary to say that, in view of coming cold weather, the Committee appeal to their friends on behalf of poor children who need warmer clothing than the means of their friends can provide, for gifts of material for clothing, articles ready made, and old clothes or gifts in money for the same object. All articles forwarded to the office of the Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall, Strand, will be duly acknowledged.

In Memoriam.

MRS. FAGG.

On September the 9th there passed away one of the most earnest and devoted of Christian workers. For twenty-four years, with but very little interruption, she laboured in the Fox Court Ragged Schools, Gray's Inn Road.

Prior to her marriage, and up to the last fortnight of her life, she in various ways consecrated her time, her strength, and her means to forward the interests of this noble institution.

She was never more happy than when engaged in carrying consolation to some suffering household, or when receiving at her house some old scholar who had been in her class, now in service or married, and if with the little ones so much the better.

She lives still in the hearts of hundreds. Some estimate may be formed of her loss by the tribute of respect which was paid to her memory on the occasion of her funeral, which took place at Highgate Cemetery on Thursday, the 14th September. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. J. Bridgman, who gave an impressive address to the members of her Bible Class. The coffin was profusely covered with flowers placed there by loving hands. All present evinced the profoundest sorrow for her loss.

Mr. T. Fagg, her husband, and the indefatigable hon. sec. of the institution, has lost a most invaluable helpmeet.

Notices of Books.

Booksellers and Bookbuyers in Byeways and Highways. By G. Holden Pike. (Passmore and Alabaster, Paternoster Buildings.)

The subject of this volume is colportage, and Lord Shaftesbury says very truly in his admirable preface that Mr. Holden Pike stands in no need of an introduction to a work of so much interest and necessity. "Every hour," he continues, "brings us increased experience that if we desire to resist effectually the moral and social evils around us, we must be more and more aggressive in our modes of operation." Colportage is essentially so in its very nature, and the records of the system prove that we have long passed the period of trial and experiment, and that we have entered on a career of certain and of great success.

Two chapters are contributed by Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, one by the late Dr. Manning, of the Tract Society, and several by G. Holden Pike.

The topics are ably treated, and the information supplied respecting this society and its laborious agents gives us an assurance that the agents of evil in the field of literature are being effectively grappled with, and that such an agency only needs the sympathy and support it merits in order to ensure a triumphant victory.

The Story of Naaman. By A. B. Mackay, Lecturer on Sacred Rhetoric and Literature, Presbyterian College, Montreal. (Hodder and Stoughton, Paternoster Row.)

The story holds the reader's attention so firmly as to necessitate the taking in, almost unconsciously, the spiritual teaching that is indissolubly entwined with the thread of the narrative.

Herein is Love. By H. D. Brown, author of "Better than Gold." (Hodder and Stoughton.)

This book will gratify and instruct a saintly mind.

Short Prayers for Every Day in the Week, for either Family or Private Use. By the Rev. Richard Shepherd, M.A. (Religious Book Society, 28, Paternoster Row. 2d. each, or 1s. 6d. per dozen.)

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Notices of Meetings.

DOVE ROW RAGGED SCHOOL.

The annual distribution of prizes took place on the 21st June at the "Morley Hall." The spacious hall was well filled with scholars' parents and friends. Rev. W. Marshall presided. Appropriate addresses were delivered by Mr. R. T. Curtis as the representative of the Ragged School Union, Dr. MacAuslane, and Rev. James Ellis. The presentation of the seven money prizes obtained by scholars from the Ragged School Union formed an interesting and important feature. The superintendent (Mr. William Gibbs Cotsford) intimated that one of the girls had for three consecutive years carried off the superintendent's prize, she having obtained the highest number of marks.

The singing of the children and the playing of selections by the Drum and Fife Band of the school greatly added to the pleasure of the gathering.

THE "ONE TUN" RAGGED SCHOOL.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the above institution was held as usual in the Girls' School Room, Old Pye Street. The chair was occupied by the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., who was supported by Sir Robert Carden, M.P., Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P., and other gentlemen. The centre of the room was occupied by a number of young persons, formerly scholars, but now in situations, who, having received good characters from their employers, obtained prizes for having retained their situations from one to six years. Behind them the gallery was occupied by a large number of the girls, who were attired in print dresses, and looked very neat and clean. There was also in an adjoining room a show of flowers, being the eighth exhibition of flowers reared by the children.

Prayer having been offered by the Rev. H. E. Fox, and a few introductory remarks made by the chairman, Earl Shaftesbury proceeded to distribute the prizes. Thirty-one young persons received various sums —5s. for having kept their situations one year, 7s. 6d. for two years, and 10s. for three years, with presents of books.

The prizes were then awarded to the scholars who had exhibited plants.

Two prizes were also given for geometry problems to two girls, aged 11 and 12; lessons having been given by Mr. Cove to the children, with a view to improve designs in patchwork, &c.

A letter was then read by Maria Elliot, from the girls to Earl Shaftes-

bury, thanking him for his kindly interest in them, and begging his acceptance of a specimen of their work in the shape of a night-shirt in a bag, a brush-and-comb bag, a pair of slippers; and one of the scholars also presented him with a a pretty ornament for the fireplace in his study.

Earl Shaftesbury expressed himself as exceedingly obliged to the children for their presents; he liked them very much indeed.

Another of the girls, Mary Ann Bowskill, then read a letter to Sir Robert Carden, thanking him for his sympathy with them, and begged his acceptance of a night-shirt in a sachet and some paper flowers. Sir Robert expressed his thanks to the little donors in a humorous way.

A number of the boys then gave from memory a chapter from the New Testament, and three girls gave recitations.

Mr. J. Payne read the report, which opened by remarking that a quarter of a century had passed since the work was commenced in that neighbourhood. Their endeavour had been to keep the children from earning their livelihood in the streets, and to get them into situations. The boys were given religious instruction and a plain secular education, and in addition to this, the girls were instructed in needlework and cooking. Several of their former scholars were active Christians. Some of the boys were in the army and navy, and during the year some of the girls had been married, and received presents of books from the Earl of Shaftesbury on the occasion, showing the kindly interest he took in them. Two of the former scholars served in the Afghan campaign, and had now returned home with medals and stripes; one had been at Candahar, and the other with General Roberts on his noted march.

The various and numerous agencies were all doing good work.

The Right Hon. W. H. Smith said he came to be present at what he had been told would be an interesting meeting. He had been very much surprised, touched, and interested at what he had seen.

The Earl of Shaftesbury expressed himself much pleased at the clean appearance of the young servants, and with the singing of the children.

Messrs. Kirk and Curtis and several other gentlemen addressed the meeting.

LAMB AND FLAG—PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, M.P., supported by Mr. Sherrard and his wife and daughter, on a recent occasion distributed the seventy-four prizes obtained by the scholars of the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools, and which had been received by many at the hands of Lord Shaftesbury. There were present also the two city missionaries connected with the schools, and a large number of parents, teachers, and friends.

Sir Robert made the distribution in his usual humorous way, and afterwards gave a very practical address, such as, if often repeated, would tend to destroy the class feeling too common amongst working people towards the more wealthy. Mr. and Mrs. Sherrard spoke in tones of sympathy upon religion, temperance, and thrift. Mrs. Sherrard offered a prize for the best specimens of sewing.

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LAMBETH RAGGED SCHOOLS.

There was a large gathering at "The Horns" on Thursday evening, 29th June, when the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., distributed prizes to the children of the above schools and presided at the annual meeting.

His lordship was received with vigorous cheering from the youngsters, and was supported on the platform by the Rev. Canon Hussey, D.D., Rev. C. Campe, M.A., Rev. W. Williams, Rev. C. H. Grundy, Rev. G. Clements, and Mr. A. Sherwin, the honorary secretary.

The children having sung "Come let us join our cheerful songs," the secretary read the report for the past year, which was a most gratifying statement of multifarious work with many blessed results. The loss of the superintendent, Mr. Bonsey, had been keenly felt. His place had been filled by Mr. T. Briant. An earnest protest had been lodged by the Committee of the Ragged School Union with the Charity Commissioners against the sale of the school building, and there was a prospect of a speedy settlement of the long-pending question.

Space will not permit us to enumerate the many agencies on foot for the benefit of young and old. About forty teachers are working on the Sabbath, and twenty-four on the week evenings. The attendances had increased, the Sunday Night School alone having about an average of 700. The debt had diminished to £15 11s.

The children then sang "Always view the bright side," after which the Rev. Canon Hussey moved the adoption of the report and election of officers.

The Rev. W. Williams seconded the motion. The prizes were then distributed, consisting of 7s. 6d. in money, to fifteen boys and girls, and prize books to eight boys and girls. The children sang another hymn, and Lord Shaftesbury addressed them with kindly interest, dwelling upon the continued necessity for such institutions. His lordship then left, and Canon Hussey taking the chair, called upon the Rev. C. H. Grundy. That gentleman made a capital appeal to the children.

The Rev. C. Campe, M.A., and other gentlemen, also spoke, and the meeting concluded with another hymn and the Benediction.

EAST GREENWICH RAGGED SCHOOL AND REFUGE.

The annual meeting of this school was held on Saturday, July 15th, at the residence of Mr. Young, Conduit Lodge, Blackheath Park, when a large number of ladies and gentlemen attended. It was intended to hold this meeting in the grounds at the rear of the house, but this was prevented in consequence of unfavourable weather. Amongst the gentlemen present were the Rev. B. Baring Gould (in the chair), Rev. B. W. Bucke, Rev. R. Holme, Rev. W. Horne, Rev. W. Stone, Rev. C. Wilson, Rev. G. Wilson, Captain E. Owen Hay, and other gentlemen.

The Chairman, having made a few introductory remarks, called upon Mr. Stone, the secretary, to read the report, and at the conclusion

The Rev. W. Stone rose to move its adoption. He said he was a missionary in East Greenwich, and had one of the very worst parts of the parish under his care. He was at their annual gathering at Christmas, and he was glad to see that the chil-

dren were well-behaved children. It quite affected him, and he went back to his poor district and felt how much easier was his teachers' task than that of the teachers of the East Greenwich Ragged School.

Captain E. Owen Hay said it was a great pleasure to him to be able to attend that day, as he was one who sympathised with such a work as they had in hand.

The Rev. C. Wilson then proposed the following:—"That the continued prosperity and efficiency of this long established school are causes for much thankfulness, and afford great encouragement to renewed effort for increased support." He said if those who established the school could have been there that day and listened to the report which had been read, he was sure they would be pleased. They were there that day to enter into the labours of those who had gone before. A few weeks ago he took the opportunity of looking at the school, and he must confess that if the character of the school would commend it to their generous sympathy and support, it would have all it needed. He was struck with the attention of the scholars, and he wondered whence it came there. He was sure no rod would have secured the attention which he saw manifested in that school, and he left with the feeling that there was in Mr. Newton, the master, a spiritual power which would tell most powerfully upon the future lives of the children. It was a great thing to make boys and girls, whose parental oversight was defective, to feel that some one cared for them, as it made them feel they had a life worth living. He was very much impressed two or three weeks ago at a meeting of a similar character to the present, by a remark made by one of the city missionaries—one of the most significant remarks he had heard. It was this—that infidelity was becoming domesticated in the homes of the poor. That was a thing which should awaken the deepest anxiety of Christian people, and make them thankful for schools of that kind.

Mr. Curtis, a deputation from the Ragged School Union, seconded the resolution.

The meeting over, the children—some thirty of the elder ones who had been specially invited—were gathered into the conservatory, where a most bountiful tea was provided, after which they were permitted to run in the meadow or walk in the kitchen garden, and gather fruit for themselves. About an hour before leaving a ring was formed, a number of hymns were sung, and buns distributed. Mrs. Young gave each child a bouquet of beautiful flowers and sixpence.

FALSTAFF YARD UNSECTARIAN MISSION AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The second annual meeting was held recently in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Trinity Street, Borough. The chair was occupied by H. Maynard, Esq. The honorary secretary, Mr. J. Cook, read the second report, which stated that "all the agencies had been kept in active operation"—viz., Open-air and Indoor Services, Prayer Meetings, Bible-readings, Temperance Meetings, Sunday Schools, Free Ragged Night Schools, Bible Classes, Singing Classes, Tract Distribution, Clothing Club, Sick Visitation, Children's Dinners, and Suppers to Poor Lads

in Winter who regularly attended the Night School.

Open-air Services have been carried on by superintendent, Mr. E. Jefferies, and a band of young workers, many of whom have been blessed by these meetings. A few interesting cases were narrated of the good accomplished by the workers known in the neighbourhood as the "Skirmishing Band," who Sunday after Sunday traverse the neighbourhood singing as they go. One case was that of a little sick girl who lay on some rags in the corner of a cold, dark room. Her father, who was half drunk, sat near her, and as the band of singers came near the house, he started up, and staggering to the window with a pail of water, said he would soon stop their noise. The child, contemplating his design, feebly called out, "Father, father! don't, father! I like to hear the singers." The father put down the pail and returned to his child. A few days after the little girl, with her eyes looking heavenward, called out, "Mother, hark! I hear the singers!" The mother replied, "No, my child, it's not yet time for the singers." "But, mother, I can hear them, and they are singing so sweetly." The mother, turning to her child, saw that she was fading away, and said, "Mary, you are dying." Mary replied, "No, mother, I'm going to join the singers;" and thus the little flower faded, to bloom in the Eden above.

The Indoor Services have also been greatly blessed to the saving of precious souls. As many as fifty-seven have testified to the saving knowlege of Jesus Christ through these services, thirty-eight having become members and workers with us.

The Senior Scholars' Class, conducted by Mr. Hewitt, has been successfully carried on during another year.

Sunday School.—During the past year there has been an average of 180 scholars and 12 teachers. During the year four of our little ones have been won as jewels to adorn the Saviour's crown.

The Boys' Night School, conducted by the secretary, has been most successful.

Free Dinners and Warm Clothing.—During the year upwards of 400 warm garments and 1,700 dinners have been distributed.

The meeting was enlivened by a choir of 60 voices, which sang very sweetly. The financial statement, read by Mr. F. Stevens, showed that during the past year £85 12s. had been expended, leaving a balance of £5 7s. 1d. due to the treasurer. Just this amount was collected at the meeting, leaving the friends out of debt.

SNOWSFIELDS.

The Need and Advantage of Night Schools.

The session of 1881-82 was a successful one. Thirty-five big lads, over fifteen years, were admitted, and an average of twenty-two was maintained. They were very ignorant, none being able to read a second standard reading book fluently, nor write a simple sentence from the same; and in arithmetic they were still more backward. There were occasional outbreaks, but on the whole their behaviour was good, and respectable progress was made in the various branches of instruction.